January 2003 Update Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)

The last Cultural Resources Work Group (CRWG) meeting was held at Berry Creek Rancheria on November 12, 2002. At that meeting it was agreed that a summary of activities conducted during January could be distributed to the CRWG in lieu of holding a regular meeting. This document provides that summary.

Study Plan C-1 Update

The archaeological team spent most of the month of January entering site information into computer data banks and finalizing site records. Items collected from the survey were also cleaned and catalogued. Statistics for the archaeological inventory have been refined from last month, resulting in a recorded total of 746 archaeological sites. This includes 277 prehistoric sites, 404 historic sites and 65 multi-component sites. These numbers may still undergo some refinement. Report writing is expected to become a top priority in February.

The ethnographic studies team continued conducting interviews throughout the month. They are making steady progress and are collecting a great deal of valuable information.

Maidu Advisory Council Update

The Maidu Advisory Council met on Wednesday, January 22, 2003. The agenda was brief. The meeting began with a review of the minutes from the previous meeting in December. The Advisory Council was then provided with an update on the cultural resources inventory (see above). There was also some discussion about how the Area of Potential Effects might be expanded in certain locations beyond the current FERC boundary.

The second major topic on the agenda was development of the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP). Steve Heipel of the Harza/EDAW consultant group provided draft text for a few of the standardized sections of the CRMP, such as the Executive Summary, Project Description and Regulatory Context. This was followed by a discussion about how we might present potential impacts to sites and related treatment measures in tabular form. The group was asked to begin thinking about the different kinds of impacts that might occur to sites, and how those impacts might be prioritized and treated.

Additional discussions included: 1) the archaeological collections currently at the Department of Parks and Recreation facility in West Sacramento, and 2) a letter from Mary Nichols, Secretary of the Resources Agency, to the TLCs and the Tribal chairs in response to earlier correspondence from them regarding protection of the ancestral site at Foreman Creek.

The next MAC meeting will be held on February 18, 2003.

The next CRWG meeting will be held February 18, 2003 at Mooretown Rancheria. Start time for the meeting is 5:30 PM.

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